

Whatcom County Health Department  
Workforce Development Plan - 2013

**Agency Profile**

**1. Mission Statement**

*Leading the Community in Promoting Health and Preventing Disease*

**2. Vision Statement**

*All People in our Community Have the Opportunities They Need to Thrive in a Safe and Healthy Environment.*

**3. Guiding Principles**

*We believe that the physical, mental, social, and environmental needs of all people must be met to achieve community wellness because health starts where we live, learn, work, and play.*

*We believe that healthy social and physical environments maximize opportunities for healthy behavior.*

*We believe that improving opportunities for everyone to be healthy regardless of income, education, or ethnic background is the foundation of public health.*

*We believe that early interventions with young children and families are essential for improving population health and reducing the burden of disease.*

**4. Location and Population Served**

The Department serves Whatcom County with a population of 201,140 as of the 2010 Census. Whatcom County is in the northwesternmost corner of Washington State, the County's land mass is 2,504 square miles. The County ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in size among Washington State counties and is the 10<sup>th</sup> most populated county in the State<sup>2</sup>. For information about the health of the population served by the Department, see this link for our latest Whatcom County Core Public Health Indicators: [WC Public Health Indicators.pptx](#).

**5. Governance**

The Whatcom County Board of Health serves as the Department's governing body and consists of seven elected council members. The County Executive appoints the Director of Health, with training in public health, and who is responsible for the Department's public health functions of community health assessment, public health policy development, and assurance of health service delivery.

<sup>2</sup> <https://fortress.wa.gov/esd/employmentdata/reports-publications/regional-reports/county-profiles/whatcom-county-profile>

## 6. Organizational Structure

The Management Team consists of the Health Director, Health Officer, the Assistant Director and Program Managers. There are five divisions: Administrative Services, Communicable Diseases and Epidemiology, Community Health, Environmental Health, and Human Services.

The Health Director serves as the agency's chief executive officer, responsible for leading the development and efficient delivery of public health services and programs.

The Health Officer serves as a medical consultant to the Director, Managers and staff, has statutory authority for many public health regulations, serves as the TB Control Officer, and the Registrar of Vital Records, directs clinical care provided by health department staff and provides clinical care for tuberculosis disease and infection.

The Assistant Health Director oversees administrative functions which include Finance/Budgeting/Accounting, Contract Management, Information Technology, and Performance Management.

The Community Health Manager oversees Healthy Communities (Chronic Disease Prevention, Community Health Planning) and Child & Family Health Programs (Parent-Child, Children with Special Health Care Needs, WIC Nutrition Education).

The Environmental Health Manager oversees programs such as Food and Living Environment, Drinking Water, On-site Sewage, and Solid and Hazardous Waste.

The Communicable Diseases and Epidemiology Manager oversees programs such as Immunizations, Communicable Diseases, Epidemiology, Needle Exchange, Emergency Preparedness, TB, HIV, and Adult Health.

The Human Services Manager oversees a division that ensures community treatment and services in the areas of Mental Health, Addiction and Substance Abuse, Developmental Disabilities, Homeless Housing, and Veterans issues. The program performs community needs assessments, strategic planning, program and service implementation, and quality assurance activities. These efforts coordinate to develop systems of care in the community in conjunction with Public Health initiatives.